



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 24, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe 
Acting Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – COMMUNITY
YOUTH SPORTS & ARTS FOUNDATION**

We have completed a review of Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation (CYSAF). The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for four Probation children.

The Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement except for several deficient areas.

The Group Home needs to make repairs to the exterior of the home and clean, repair or replace items throughout the home. The Group Home also needs to maintain current Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) that include short and long term goals and obtain input from all members of the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs. In addition, the Group Home needs to provide children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs and provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Don Chadwick at (626) 293-1102.

WLW:MMO:DC:CC:gfw

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Herb Wesson III, Chairman of the Board, Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation
Glenn Scott, Executive Director, Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation
Community Youth Sports & Arts Foundation Group Home (CYSAF)
Los Angeles, California 90043
License Number: 191800533
Rate Classification Level: 9**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

CYSAF Group Home is located in a commercial area. The exterior of the Group Home is not well maintained. The roof shingles, wood trim, paint and stucco are damaged and in poor repair. There is writing on the rear exterior of the Group Home.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, there are cracks in the living room door. The kitchen, dining room and gym floors are damaged. Additionally, the microwave and the shower walls in bathroom one are damaged. The stove, oven, bathtubs, showers and the sink in bathroom two are dirty.

Overall, children's bedrooms are adequately maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. However, the bedroom dressers and desks in bedroom one and the floor in bedroom three are damaged. In bedroom one, the closet door knob is missing. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. CYSAF management:

- a. Repair the roof shingles, wood trim, paint and stucco on the house exterior.**
- b. Remove the writing from the rear of the Group Home.**

- c. Replace the living room door.
- d. Repair the floors in the kitchen, the dining room, gym and in bedroom three.
- e. Repair the shower walls in bathroom one.
- f. Repair or replace the microwave oven, the bedroom dressers, desks and the closet door knob in bedroom one.
- g. Clean the stove, the oven, bathtubs, showers and the sink in bathroom two.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team does not develop or implement the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are not current and do not include short or long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. CYSAF management:

- a. Include input from all members of the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the NSPs.
- b. Maintain current comprehensive NSPs that include short and long term goals.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are not provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation or vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

3. CYSAF management provide age-appropriate children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size: Two****Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents****Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented. Children are also aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights**Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail and have private visitors. Children attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides items of necessity to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 4. CYSAF management provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.**



April 18, 2008
Candace Rhue
Group Audit Supervisor
County of Los Angeles
Dept of the Auditor-Controller
Children's Group Home Ombudsman Div.
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple St. Rm. 515A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**The Community Youth Sports
and Arts Foundation**

Dear Ms Rhue:

I. Facility and Environment

1.a) Roof Shingles have been repaired. The Facility Manager will visually inspect the roof on a monthly basis and will inform the landlord if the roof needs repair. The landlord has agreed to paint the wood trim surrounding the exterior of the group home. The landlord will paint and repair the stucco on the exterior of the group home where needed. The painting and the stucco repairs will be completed on or before July 30, 2008.

The Facility Manager will be responsible for implementing the corrective action and the Administrator will be responsible for ensuring the corrective Action Plan remains implemented.

b.) The writing on the rear of the group home will be blocked out with primer paint on or before May 1, 2008 and will be repainted when the house is painted on or before July 30, 2008. The Facility Manager will be responsible for implementing the corrective action. The group home staff will daily inspect for graffiti or writing and will document their findings. The Administrator will check the documentation and will take Corrective Action steps where necessary to remove any graffiti.

c) The front door has been repaired and will be inspected by the Facility Manager on a weekly basis and will note in the staff log book if repairs are necessary. The Administrator will review the log book on a weekly basis.

d.) The floors in the kitchen, the dining room, gym and in bedroom three are currently being repaired. The repairs will be completed on or before May 20, 2008. The Facility Manager will be responsible for implementing the repairs and Corrective Action and he will perform weekly inspections to ensure that the Corrective Action remains implemented.

e.) The shower walls will be repaired and completed on or before May 20, 2008. The Facility Manager will be responsible for implementing the repairs to the shower walls

and will perform weekly inspections to ensure that no further repairs are needed. If additional damage occurs, he will document it.

f) CYSAF will replace the microwave on or before April 20, 2008. The bedroom dressers and desk in bedroom one will be replaced or repaired on or before May 20, 2008. The door knob in the closet in bedroom one has been replaced. The Facility Manager will be responsible for implementing the corrective actions and will perform weekly inspections to ensure that no further repairs are needed. If additional damage occurs, he will document such.

g) The stove, the oven, the bathtubs, the showers, and the sink in bathroom two have been cleaned. The Facility Manager will be responsible for performing weekly inspections to ensure that no further cleaning is needed and if additional cleaning is needed, he will document the uncleanness and make sure the item are cleaned. .

CYSAF has weekly inspections forms that will be used by staff and the Facility Manager and the inspection forms will be submitted to the Administrator. The Administrator will ensure the corrective actions remain implemented and are working as intended.

II. Program Services

2.a) CYSAF management will include input from members of its management team including input from the residents. CYSAF will invite the resident's Probation Officer (PO) to participate in the development of the resident's Needs and Service Plan (NSP). The resident's PO will be requested, in advance in writing, to participate in the development and implementation of the resident's NSP.

b) When a resident is brought to the facility, CYSAF's Social Worker will have each resident complete a questionnaire regarding their short and long term goals. The NSP will identify the immediate short term and long term goals of the resident. CYSAF's treatment team will meet monthly to assess each residents short and long term progress and will make adjustments according to each resident's development and progress.

III Educational and Emancipation Services:

3. CYSAF will provide age appropriate residents with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs. CYSAF is now utilizing the programs offered by Para Los Ninos Youth Development Services to provide services for our residents between the ages of 16-18 to provide education and training that are designed to increase a residents chance of securing a job. The resident will participate in Life Skills Training classes that will teach the resident to secure a place to live once the resident is on his own; give the resident information regarding college or vocational scholarships and financial aid, he may be eligible to qualify; and provide the resident with information regarding vocational assessment for job fields he may be interested. On March 17, 2008, a CYSAF resident entered Para Los Ninos Youth Development Program. CYSAF will continue to pursue and involve its age appropriate residents in vocational and educational

programs at other Community Based Organizations such as those offered by United Care and the Urban League.

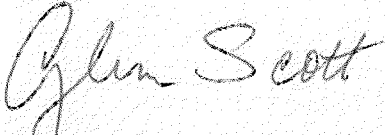
The Facility Manager will be responsible for implementing the Corrective Action and the Administrator will be responsible for monitoring to ensure that the Corrective Action remains implemented and is working as intended.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

CYSAF will provide each eligible resident with the required \$50.00 monthly clothing allowance and will document such. The Facility Manager will be responsible for implementing the Corrective Action and the Administrator will be responsible for monitoring to ensure that the Corrective Action remains implemented and is working as intended.

If there are any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Scott".

Glenn Scott
Executive Director/Administrator